

Guns in the hands of law defying vagabonds and boys who do not know better than to kill every living thing they see. Twenty years ago this elegant duck bred in all the country from Canada to the Carolinas, and one of its common names in America is "summer duck" because it does not go to the far North to breed. In Europe it is known as the Carolina duck. In the swamp above the State hatchery, where I often go to try and watch the habits of the woodcock (without a gun), the wood-duck used to breed in the hollow trees like the woodpecker, but now, when every boy has a gun, if a rumor of a wild duck comes to the school-house—no matter if the law protected this exquisite bird—a dozen guns would be in ambush for him when he wet his feet in the waters near the spot he had chosen to help his mate rear their young. Disgusted with this, I have tried to domesticate these ornamental ducks whose small size has not recommended them to our ancestors, but whose plumage is sufficient reason for their existence.

FEEDING IN GENERAL.

(Continued.)

Variety.—It is important to arrange the feeding so as to secure a suitable variety, as otherwise the fowl will not eat with so good an appetite, nor digest so well what it has eaten. Every fowl ought to have every day one of the three kinds—grains, fresh vegetables and animal food.

It is probable also that some of the constituents of food which exist in such small quantities that the chemists do not commonly take note of them in drawing up schemes for feeding, are as important as the more common substances, but have to be obtained from different sources.

A little thought is all that is necessary to secure variety; the other kinds of grain may be given now and then, instead of the wheat or corn so commonly depended on, or whole grain may be varied with cracked grain, or ground grain; raw dough with cooked dough, and so on. Mixtures of the various grains as a steady thing are to be avoided, as making it difficult to secure variety. The animal food and the vegetables offer opportunities for almost endlessly varying the bill of fare, and the breeder on a large scale needs especially to be warned against falling into one routine, or the confined use of one kind of these foods. Fowls running at large cater in variety of food for themselves. For a few fowls, also, the table scraps go a great way towards making up the deficiency, for these are of very diverse characters, as we take care of ourselves in this matter of variety, if not of our fowls. Even the monotony of corn feeding in fattening ought to be relieved a little, if we wish to secure the best results.

Exhibitions.—Much harm is done to fowls by careless treatment during exhibitions, and especially by not providing plenty of clean gravel, green stuff, etc., all the varieties of small things that the fowls are always needing. Before the exhibition, sunflower seed, or hempseed, or buckwheat may be given to improve the general appearance of the fowl, especially of the plumage. Carrots and flaxseed also give a gloss to the plumage. After the exhibition the fowl is frequently not in a condition to relish its ordinary food. Give bread soaked in warm ale and a teaspoonful of castor oil; next day give only soft food, and after that go on again.

Cost and quantity of food.—Food for fowls is more expensive, in proportion, than for other animals. A good, healthy, growing fowl needs weekly about a pint and a half of corn or wheat. A bushel of corn produces

nine pounds live weight, seven and one-half pounds dressed weight, or twelve and one-half pounds of eggs.

Leghorns will eat one-third less than Brahmas or Cochins while not laying, but during the laying term, or just before it, the quantity of food consumed is governed more by the prolificness than by the size of the bird. Before the laying commences there must be storing of material in the system, that there may be a reserve to draw from. It is not probable that a fowl can digest enough food each day to furnish material for an egg, and meet the other demands incident to her life. When the reserve is exhausted then comes a time of rest.—*How to Feed Fowls.*

JUDGING AT THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

Editor Review,—

I GATHER from the REVIEW, as I also learned when visiting the Toronto Industrial, that more or less dissatisfaction with the judging, for which there were some grounds, existed. Judging at the autumn shows must necessarily be by comparison. But is there any good reason why it may not be by *close comparison*? No one will maintain that when the birds deemed the best are fifteen or twenty feet apart, close comparisons can be instituted, except by removing them from their coops and placing them under circumstances where *all* their points can be accurately observed and compared.

Unless I am in error this is not done now.

I would suggest that a large cage or coop, with movable partitions supported on a frame with rollers so as to be pushed about as required, and into which several birds might be put for careful comparison, would be an inexpensive and successful device. The judges may be men of ability and integ-